

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 5-20 are now present in the application. The title and claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claims 16-20 have been added. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 16 and 18 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 4, 6, 7 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 4 and its intervening claim 2. In addition, claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 16 and 18. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 16 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Loh, U.S. Patent No. 6,897,486. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 4 and its intervening claim 2. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

In addition to new independent claims 16 and 18, additional claims 17, 19 and 20 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17, 19 and 20 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claims 16 and 18, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 16-20 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

